

**REMARKS****Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4 stand objected to due to some informalities.

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,290,521 to Suzuki, et al. ("Suzuki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,547,388 to Hill.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Applicants provide a verified translation of the Japanese priority document JP 2000-78015 to antedate Suzuki, the base reference. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 4-7 are pending for further consideration.

**All Claims are Allowable**

Claims 1-2 and 4 stand objected to due to some informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 does have antecedent basis for the claimed feature "said connector" located in claim 1, line 11. Antecedent basis is found at lines 10-11 which recite "a lock arm provided on the outer periphery of *a connector*, said cover portion is fitted to said connector so as to cover a front portion." Emphasis added.

The Office Action asserts that claim 1, lines 5-7 need clarification. Applicants respectfully disagree. The claim language explicitly claims two portions of the dust cover; a cover portion and a packing protection portion. Fig. 1A shows very clearly both of these portions as items 12 and 13, respectively. The "packing protection portion [13] having a cross-section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction [of the dust cover 10] that is further from the longitudinal axis than a cross-section of the cover portion [12]." Applicants respectfully submit

that one of ordinary skill in the art would easily identify the packing protection portion and that cover portion.

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki, in view of Hill. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim for priority to Japanese patent document 2000-78015, filed March 21, 2000, was previously made in the U. S. application and filed on April 24, 2001. A copy of the date-stamped postcard illustrating this fact is attached. The base reference, Suzuki, has a U.S. filing date of April 10, 2000. As such, Suzuki cannot qualify as prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. A verified translation of Japanese patent document 2000-78015 is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

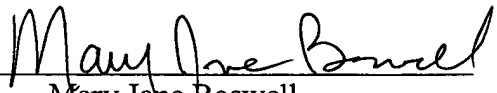
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**PLEASE STAMP AND RETURN TO SHOW RECEIPT OF:**

U.S. Patent Application of: Mitsuharu NAKAMURA et al.

Application No.: 09/811,506

Group Art: Unassigned

Filed: March 20, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: DUSTPROOF COVER FOR A CONNECTOR AND PREFITTING  
DUSTPROOFING STRUCTURE FOR A CONNECTOR

1. Formal Drawings - 2 sheets containing 4 figures
2. Claim for Priority
3. Certified Copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-78015  
filed March 21, 2000

Dated: April 24, 2001

Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5647

RG2/lmp



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